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UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

Executive Registry

77-1492

MAY 27 1977

Adm. Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

Increasing concern over the potential for nuclear power to contribute to nuclear explosives proliferation has resulted in a reformulation of certain aspects of U.S. nuclear policy, articulated by President Carter on April 7, 1977 in his Statement on Nuclear Power Policy, in his submittal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Policy Act of 1977 for amending the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and in the Fact Sheet accompanying the bill. The Nonproliferation Alternative Systems Assessment Program (NASAP) is one of the major efforts being undertaken by the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) to comply with this policy. This program seeks to develop recommendations on nuclear power reactor systems and fuel cycles which offer lower risk of nuclear explosives proliferation than previously planned fuel cycles, while at the same time preserving the benefits of nuclear power. As such, it should have a major influence on the future course of the U.S. nuclear program, and through its support to the International Fuel Cycle Evaluation Program proposed by the President, an influence upon the nuclear programs of other nations as well.

A draft Preliminary Program Plan for NASAP has been prepared by ERDA and two copies are enclosed for your review and comment. Additional copies can be provided if needed. This document lays out in some detail what is intended to be done and how it is intended to be accomplished. ERDA is committed to include a wide range of viewpoints in this program and intends to work closely with other elements of the Federal Government. This approach is intended to help provide objective

DOE review completed

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Adm. Stansfield Turner

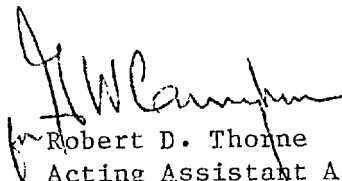
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and unbiased evaluations, as well as contribute to wide acceptance of recommendations. Please provide your comments to me within two weeks. Subsequent to receipt and appropriate revision of the plan for this program to reflect the comments of other federal agencies, the plan will be made available to the general public and foreign countries. It would assist us if you would name a contact for further discussion as may be necessary and to act as a coordinating point.

Please contact the ERDA program manager, Mr. S. Strauch, Assistant Director for Nuclear Energy Assessments, (353-4366), or in his absence Mr. E. DeLaney (353-4366) if you need further information on this subject.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Thorne
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Nuclear Energy

Enclosure:

Preliminary Program Plan for
Nonproliferation Alternative
Systems Assessment Program (2)

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